

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

№2
MAY-JUNE

Romantic Adventures

10¢

OH NO, ROD... PLEASE!
ALL I CAN GIVE YOU IS
MY LOVE... BUT SHE'S
TRYING TO BUY YOU
AS A PLAYTHING!

A 52-PAGE
MAGAZINE





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READERS' ROMANCES



HELLO THERE, READER!

To all of you who scan the pages of "ROMANTIC ADVENTURES," greetings—and the hope that you'll find this great new magazine all that we're trying to make it! All in thrills—all in romantic allure—all in the emotional heart-throbs that crowd it from cover to cover!

It's going to be our job to bring you the *greatest love stories ever told*—but the thought occurs that we owe something *beyond* this to you! And how we reached this decision is a love story in itself! It all began when we found Paulette, one of our stenographers, crying beside her typewriter. She didn't want to tell why, but finally it came out. She was a wallflower who never had any dates—who didn't know the real meaning of *love*! It was a problem, all right—a problem we felt was squarely up to us! For what good did it do to publish a love story magazine if we couldn't advise somebody how to win love in *real life*?

And so from the editors of "ROMANTIC ADVENTURES" came the first actual tip on how a girl could gain romance. Paulette's features were good—but who could tell under that unbecoming makeup and awkward hairdo? She'd let her figure go, too, and her obvious stoutness wasn't helped by frumpy clothes. No wonder she was a wallflower! Studying her, we knew immediately the answer to her love problem, and broke it to her gently. "You've got to reduce, gal!" we said. "Then go to a good beauty salon and have them restyle your hair! Have 'em teach you how to use makeup effectively, too—then go in for simple clothes that'll flatter you. Try it—and then wait for results!"

Simple remedies, weren't they? You've met them in our stories—but after all, aren't all our plots patterned after *real life*? Paulette followed our advice—and what emerged was a modern miracle! She wasn't plain Jane any longer, but a *new* Paulette who's now engaged to one of the handsomest men we've ever seen!

So you see, reader—we can help people, after all! And our experience here set us to thinking. If we could do that for someone in our office, how about our *readers*? Couldn't we do more than just entertain them with swell love stories? We remembered one of them who seemed to need help—and if you don't think so, just read this letter!

"Dear editors of 'ROMANTIC ADVENTURES':

I'm a girl 17 years of age, and have

been having a lot of trouble at home. It's about love, I guess, and I thought that since you put out a romance magazine, you might be able to advise me what to do.

My parents are very strict and won't let me go out with boys. I was in love with one boy at school and one night my father saw him kissing me outside the house, and that's when he said I couldn't go out any more.

I'm working now and one of the men in the office has been taking me out. My folks don't know, because I always tell them I'm going out with my girl friend. But I'm crazy about this man, and I know if my father finds out about it, he'll make me break off with him. What ought I to do about this? I love him so!

—A. G., New York."

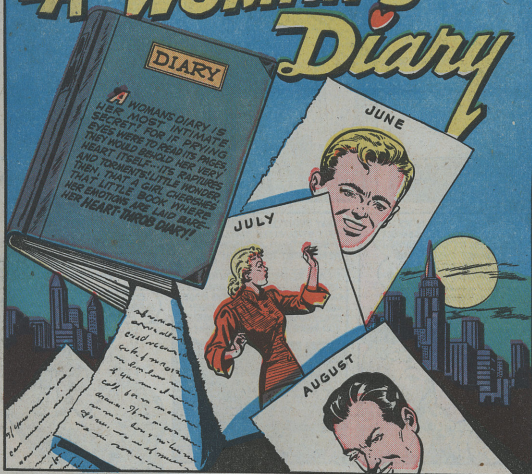
Well, A. G., maybe we *can* help you—but we don't know if you'll like it! You're speaking about *love*—but do you know its meaning? First it's a boy at school—then a man at the office—and goodness knows who next! We feel that you've mistaken a desire to get away from your parents' authority for love. But *real* love isn't that. It's the man you want to be with for the rest of your life! We're afraid you think you "love" anybody who shows you attention. It's not your fault—you're lonesome, and, frankly, have been kept too strictly. You've got to put the matter up to your parents fairly and squarely, and arrive at an understanding. Tell them that you're no longer a child, but an adult. Tell them that you want to feel free to entertain your friends in your own home and have dates like other girls do. Let them know *your* viewpoint, but see *theirs*, too—after all, they're just trying to protect you! We're sure they'll give you the opportunity to lead more of your own life—and then you can wait for *true* romance, rather than seize on any chance encounter and think it's love! Why not try—and see if we aren't right?

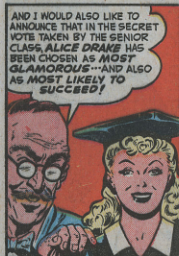
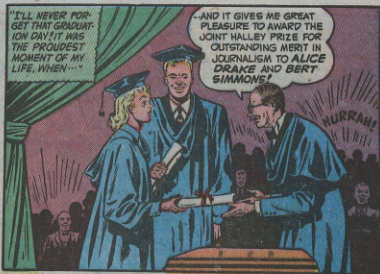
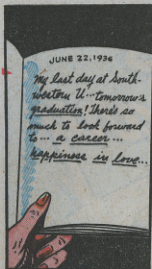
★ ★ ★

This was a problem, reader—a real problem. It strikes us that many of you must have such problems—and that's where WE come in! We're inviting you to bring your love problems to us, and let us use our know-how to help you find the best solution! In other words—*let's hear from you!* Address your letters to us in care of this magazine, at 45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Our advice will either be published on this page, or, if you prefer, sent you by letter!

—THE EDITORS

A WOMAN'S Diary





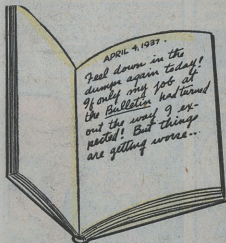
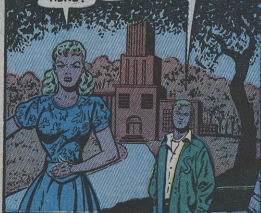
"I FORCED BACK MY TEARS...TEARS OF HURT AND ANGER! HE MUST HAVE KNOWN HOW MUCH A CAREER MEANT TO ME...THAT IT WAS THE OTHER HALF OF MY DREAM! WELL, I'D SHOW HIM!"

SO MISTER SUPERIOR THINKS I'LL NEVER GET ANYPLACE! WELL, I CAN TELL YOU NOW... I'VE ALREADY LANDED A JOB ON THE WEEKLY BULLETIN! I'LL BE GOING PLACES, WHILE YOU DO THE WAITING...FOR THAT FANCY JOB YOU WON'T GET!

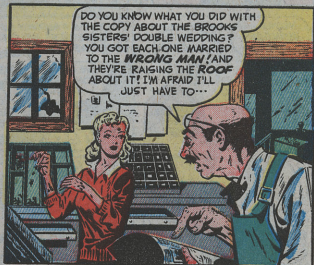


YOU CAN GO TO YOUR NEW YORK...AND I HOPE YOU NEVER COME BACK HERE!

ALL RIGHT! I WON'T, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID WITH THE COPY ABOUT THE BROOKS SISTERS' DOUBLE WEDDING? YOU GOT EACH ONE MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN! AND THEY'RE RAISING THE ROOF ABOUT IT! I'M AFRAID I'LL JUST HAVE TO...



"I KNEW HE WAS ABOUT TO FIRE ME, AND A SURGE OF BURNING RESSENTMENT AND HUMILIATION FLOODED OVER ME! THEN..."

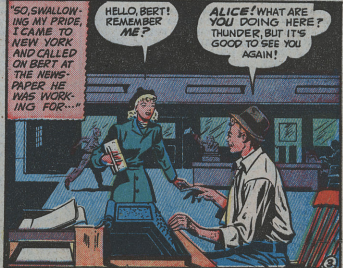
OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU CAN'T FIRE ME! BECAUSE I QUIT! YOU OLD SLAVE-DRIVER... MAKING A GIRL WHO WAS VOTED THE MOST GLAMOROUS AND MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED SORT DIRTY TYPE! I'M GOING TO SUCCEED, BUT IN A PLACE THAT RECOGNIZES ABILITY!

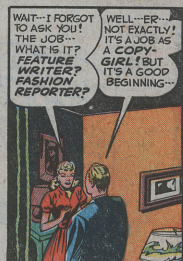
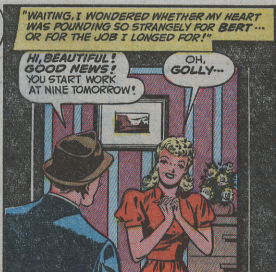


"SO, SWALLOWING MY PRIDE, I CAME TO NEW YORK AND CALLED ON BERT AT THE NEWS-PAPER HE WAS WORKING FOR..."

HELLO, BERT! REMEMBER ME?

ALICE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THUNDER, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!







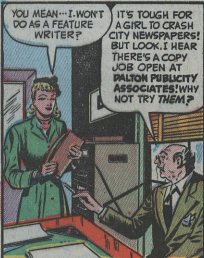
*THAT NIGHT, I TOSSED SLEEPLESSLY, WRACKED WITH BITTERNESS AND DETERMINATION...

I COULDN'T EVER HAVE REALLY LOVED HIM! AND NOW ALL I WANT TO DO IS SHOW HIM, **SHOW HIM!** I'LL GET A GOOD JOB... AND PROVE I'M BETTER THAN HE IS!



JULY 18, 1937

No luck again today! Can't hold out much longer... money gone, clothes shot, and I look like a mess! Is every job filled?

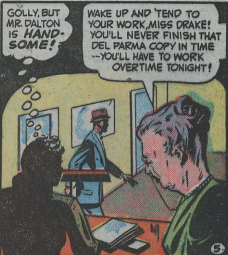


"I WAS DESPERATE, ABOUT TO GIVE UP IN DEFEAT! BUT ALLAN DALTON WAS STRANGELY FASCINATING! I TRIED HARD TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION..."

...AND AT COLLEGE, I WAS VOTED THE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED, IF **THAT** MEANS ANYTHING! IT DOESN'T, BUT YOUR WRITING SAMPLES SHOW SOME ABILITY! I'LL TRY YOU OUT AT THIRTY A WEEK!



"**BOY** ELATION AT LANDING A WRITING JOB FADED AFTER A FEW WEEKS ... IT TURNED INTO DULL ROUTINE! AND THEN..."



"THAT NIGHT, AS I WORKED LATE, ALONE..."

AH, I'M GLAD **SOME-ONE's** HERE! LISTEN, WHEN MITZI MULLEN CALLS, TELL HER TO MEET ME AT NINE AT THE CLUB SAVANNAH! SHE'S SUPPOSED TO POSE FOR SOME CAFÉ SOCIETY PHOTOS WITH A CLIENT OF MINE!

I'LL TELL HER, MR. DALTON!

"THE PHONE RANG TEN MINUTES LATER... AND THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME FELL INTO MY LAP!"

...AND MY DOCTOR **INSISTS** I STAY IN BED! WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE MR. DALTON MY REGRETS?

I CERTAINLY WILL, MISS MULLEN...

...IN PERSON!

GOOD, THEY DIDN'T LOCK THE WARDROBE ROOM! AND I'VE GOT TWO WHOLE HOURS BEFORE NINE O'CLOCK!

WARDROBE DEPARTMENT

"And then... THE TRANSFORMATION BEGAN! I HAD TO WORK FAST..."



TWO HOURS LATER, AT THE CLUB SAVANNAH...

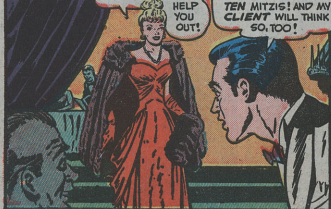
HELLO, MR. DALTON! MISS MULLEN'S SICK AND COULDN'T COME, SO I THOUGHT I'D HELP YOU OUT!

BUT HOW... BUT... I HARDLY **RECOGNIZE** YOU, MISS DRAKE! WHY, YOU'RE BETTER THAN TEN MITZIS! AND MY CLIENT WILL THINK SO, TOO!

YOU'RE **BEAUTIFUL**, MISS DRAKE! AFTER HE TAKES THIS PICTURE, HOW ABOUT A DANCE?

SORRY, WARNER! OUR DEAL IS TO CRACK THE PAPERS

WITH A PICTURE OF YOU AS A BIGSHOT IN SWANK CAFÉ SOCIETY, POSING WITH SOME GLAMOR BABE! AND AFTER THE PICTURE, **MISS DRAKE IS ALL MINE!**



"MOST GLAMOROUS... MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED... THIS WAS GLAMOR! THIS WAS SUCCESS!"

I CAN KICK MYSELF! THE MOST GORGEOUS GIRL IN NEW YORK IN MY OWN OFFICES, RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE... AND I NEVER CAUGHT ON! ALICE, YOU'RE LOVELY!

THANKS... ALLAN!



"AFTER A THRILLING ROUND OF THE NIGHT-SPOTS, ALLAN TOOK ME HOME... AND I HAD MY PLANS MADE!"

YOU KNOW, ALLAN, IF YOU THINK I'VE GOT GLAMOR, I'D LIKE TO BE OF USE TO YOU! WHY NOT TURN YOUR PUBLICITY LOOSE ON ME? I'D BE A BIG ASSET TO YOUR FIRM!

HMM! PUT YOU IN THE PUBLIC EYE, AND WE'D CASH IN PLENTY! GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO THINK IT OVER!

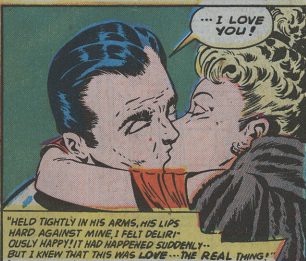


WELL, ALLAN... MADE UP YOUR MIND YET?

YES! I'LL DO IT! NOT FOR ANY MONEY THAT MAY BE IN IT, BUT BECAUSE...



... I LOVE YOU!



"HELD TIGHTLY IN HIS ARMS, HIS LIPS HARD AGAINST MINE, I FELT DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY! IT HAD HAPPENED SUDDENLY... BUT I KNEW THAT THIS WAS LOVE... THE REAL THING!"

"I'D NEVER EVEN DREAMED THAT A MAN LIKE HIM WOULD BE DRAWN TO ME! AND NOW MY DREAMS WERE ONLY OF ALLAN... ALLAN!"

SWEETHEART...



IT... IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY! AND THIS ENTRY HERE... I CAN REMEMBER HOW ECSTATIC I WAS WHEN I WROTE IT!



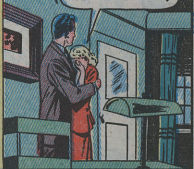
OCTOBER 13, 1937

My publicity buildup's working! I've become the best-known girl in New York... pictures of me everywhere! Allan has done wonders... and I love him!

"TEARS FLOODED UP, BLINDED ME!
...OH, HOW I HATED BERT FOR TRYING TO SHATTER MY DREAM THAT HAD ALMOST BECOME REALITY! I WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM! I WOULDN'T!"

THE COWARD! HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE SPUNK ENOUGH TO BACK UP HIS ROTTEN WORDS WITH HIS FISTS!

PLEASE, ALLAN! AS IF I COULD EVER BELIEVE ACCUSATIONS LIKE THAT AGAINST THE MAN I LOVE!



"RESOLUTELY, I THRUST BERT FROM MY MIND! AND A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN ALLAN INTRODUCED ME TO TONY WITHERS, THE RISING YOUNG HOLLYWOOD STAR..."

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, TONY... HOW YOU STARTED AS A FIREMAN BEFORE YOU GOT INTO THE MOVIES...

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! TONY IS ONE OF OUR NEW CLIENTS, AND I'VE ARRANGED A LITTLE PUBLICITY STUNT THAT YOU'LL BOTH FIGURE IN! LET'S GET STARTED!



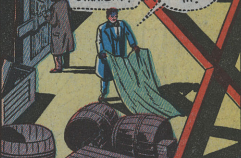
BUT ALLAN, WHY ARE YOU SO SECRETIVE ABOUT THE STUNT? WHAT IS IT... AND WHY'VE WE COME TO THIS OLD WAREHOUSE?

TRUST ME, DARLING! IT'LL COME OFF MUCH BETTER IF IT'S A SURPRISE TO YOU! AND IF IT TURNS OUT WELL, I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE SELLING YOU TO NATION-WIDE PICTURES!



OKAY... I'VE LOCKED ALICE IN HERE, AND ALL SHE KNOWS IS THAT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO STAY PUT! I'VE ALREADY PHONED THE REPORTERS... THEY OUGHT TO BE HERE SOON! GOT YOUR STORY STRAIGHT?

YEAH! I SAY I SAW HER BEING SNATCHED BY GANGSTERS AND TRAILED 'EM HERE! A FIRE BROKE OUT AND THEY LEFT, LEAVING HER LOCKED IN!



BUT I DON'T FORGET I HAD ONCE BEEN A FIREMAN! AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE, I BREAK IN AND SAVE HER! BOY, WHAT PUBLICITY FOR ME!

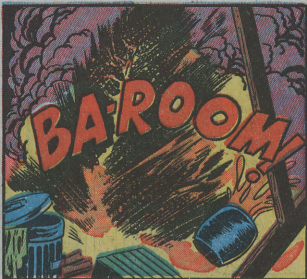
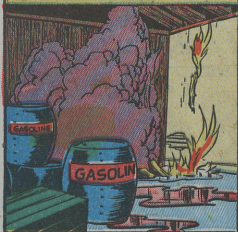
WELL, YOU'RE PAYING ENOUGH FOR IT!... THIS'LL BE MOSTLY SMOKE, BUT THE REPORTERS WON'T KNOW THAT! NOW LET'S GET OUT AND LET THE SMOKE GET REAL HEAVY BEFORE YOU PULL YOUR ACT!



ALLAN! THERE'S A FIRE IN THE BUILDING! GET ME OUT! ALLAN!



BUT WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE,
AND THE FIRE EATS QUICKLY THROUGH THE
TINDER-DRY, WORN OLD FLOORBOARDS, AND...



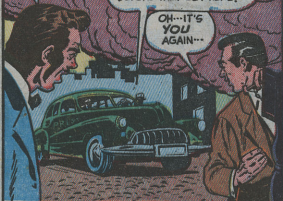
**GOOD GOSH... THIS
PLACE IS GOING
UP LIKE A TORCH!
GET IN THERE AND PULL
HER OUT, TONY-- QUICK!**

**WHAT? ME? MAN, I
WOULDN'T BUCK THAT
BLAZE FOR THE
FATTEST CONTRACT
IN HOLLYWOOD!**



**HERE COME THE
REPORTERS! THEY
WOULD SHOW
UP... NOW!**

**WHAT'S WRONG, DALTON--ONE OF
YOUR PHONY PUBLICITY STUNTS
BACKFIRE? NO USE RINGING THAT
BOX--THE PLACE WILL BE ASHES
BEFORE THEY GET HERE!**

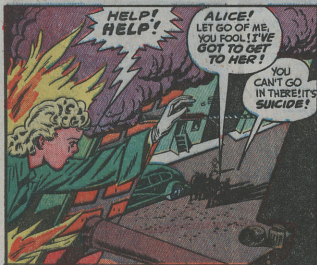


**OH...IT'S
YOU
AGAIN...**

**HELP!
HELP!**

**ALICE!
LET GO OF ME,
YOU FOOL! I'VE
GOT TO GET
TO HER!**

**YOU
CAN'T GO
IN THERE! IT'S
SUICIDE!**



**STOP
HIM!**

**HE'LL NEVER GET
HER IN TIME! SHE'LL
BE BURNED TO
A CRISP!**





IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
DARLING!
I'M
HERE!

OH, BERT!
TH-THANK
HEAVENS!



JUST KEEP MY
JACKET AROUND YOUR
HEAD! WE'LL MAKE IT
...I HOPE!



HE GOT
HER OUT!
WOTTA
MAN!

QUICK! HIS SHIRT'S
BURNING! BEAT IT
OUT!



"WITH ALLAN'S LYING WORDS, THE TRUTH DAWNED
AT LAST! THIS MAN WHO HAD SO RECKLESSLY EN-
DANGERED MY LIFE... WAS THIS THE MAN I HAD
THOUGHT I LOVED?"

"AND THERE
I WAS...
SAFE...
ALIVE...
TRYING
HARD TO
FIND WORDS
TO EXPRESS
MY
GRATITUDE
...WHEN I
HEARD..."

BERT, I...
I WANT
TO...

WELL...ER...YOU
SEE, TONY WITHERS
AND I SAW MISS
DRAKE BEING KIDNAPPED,
AND WE FOLLOWED TO
T-TRY TO SAVE HER! THEN
...ER...THE KIDNAPPERS
MUST HAVE SET THE
F-FIRE AND LOCKED HER
IN THAT ROOM, AND I
TURNED IN THE ALARM...

I...I'VE BEEN A FOOL, BUT I CAN SEE IT
ALL NOW! YOU SET THAT FIRE AND
LOCKED ME IN! AND...AND YOU SAID
YOU LOVED ME, BUT IT WAS JUST
SO YOU COULD USE ME FOR YOUR
ROTTEN PUBLICITY TRICKS! YOU
DON'T KNOW THE MEAN-
ING OF REAL LOVE, YOU
TREACHEROUS LIAR!



OKAY...AND NOW THAT ALICE HAS HAD *HER* SAY, *HERE'S MY SHARE, DALTON!*

AND AFTER *YOU'RE* DONE WITH HIM, LADDIE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REMAINS!



"EYES SHINING, I LOOKED TOWARDS BERT...THE BRAVE AND SINCERE MAN I WAS SEEING FOR THE FIRST TIME! HE'D BEEN RIGHT IN WARNING ME AGAINST ALLAN...HE'D RISKED HIS LIFE FOR MINE...HE'D ALWAYS *CARED FOR ME!*"

WILL YOU EVER FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO BLIND, BERT? FOR LETTING MYSELF FALL FOR THAT CHEAP PHONY, WHEN ALL THE TIME, *YOU...*

THAT'S ALL OVER WITH, ALICE! AND NOW MAYBE YOU'LL REALIZE YOU OUGHT TO KEEP OUT OF A *MAN'S* WORLD...THAT *YOUR* PLACE IS IN THE *HOME!*



WHY, *YOU*...YOU'RE JUST AS CONCEITED AS *EVER*, YOU STUFFED SHIRT! I CAN DO ANYTHING *YOU* CAN...

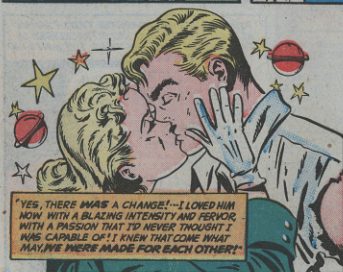
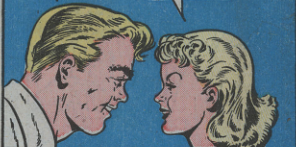
STUFFED SHIRT, AM I? IS *THIS* WHAT YOU CALL A STUFFED SHIRT? LET ME TELL *YOU*...



"I GUESS WE BOTH REALIZED AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE WERE OFF ON THE SAME OLD BATTLING MERRY-GO-ROUND! BUT A FLOOD OF TENDERNESS AND YEARNING SWEEPED OVER ME--AND HIS EYES ANSWERED!"

NO, NO! I GUESS NEITHER OF US HAS CHANGED, ALICE!

WELL, DO YOU THINK THERE'S SOME WAY WE CAN FIND OUT AND MAKE *SURE*...?



"YES, THERE *WAS* A CHANGE!...I LOVED HIM NOW WITH A BLAZING INTENSITY AND FERVOR, WITH A PASSION THAT I'D NEVER THOUGHT I WAS CAPABLE OF! I KNEW THAT COME WHAT MAY, *WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!*"

NOVEMBER, 1937

This will be the last entry! I'm ending this diary here because a new life is beginning for me! Today is the day of days... I'm marrying Bert!

Everything BUT LOVE!

SOME DAY, I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT!



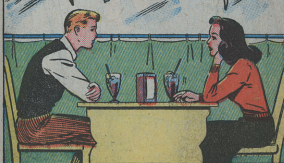
"AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE KNOWN WHAT I WANTED! LILA MORTON NOBODY WAS GOING TO BE LILA MORTON SOMEBODY...AND NOTHING WAS GOING TO STOP ME!"

"WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, I KNEW WHERE I WAS HEADING!"

WHY DON'T YOU SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME, LILA? I'VE GOT A JOB NOW, AND...

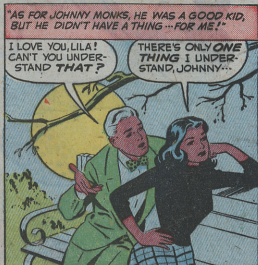
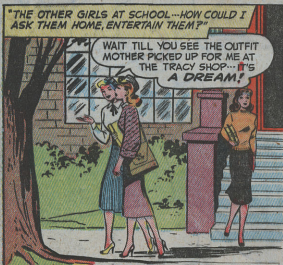
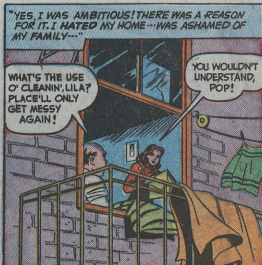
...MAKE YOUR PLANS WITHOUT ME, JOHNNY MONKS! YOU'RE SWEET, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH!

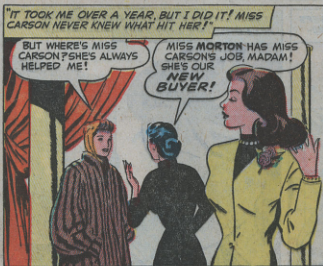
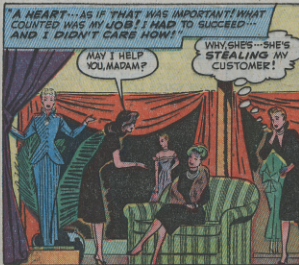
ADD



THERE'S AN OLD SAYING, JOHNNY. 'HE TRAVELS FASTEST WHO TRAVELS ALONE!' AND I MEAN TO TRAVEL...FAST!







"I STARTED MY LITTLE CAMPAIGN AT CLOSING TIME!... OBJECTIVE... JIM TALBOT'S JOB!"

OH, DEAR, I HATE THESE LONELY DINNERS I EAT, MR. TALBOT!

I DON'T SUPPOSE... YOU WOULDN'T...



"OH, WOULDN'T I? JIM TALBOT WAS WALKING RIGHT INTO THE TRAP I WAS SETTING... AND LOVING IT!"

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, MR. TALBOT... JIM... BUT THIS LINE ON YOUR PALM SAYS YOU'RE LONELY!

YOU COULD CHANGE THAT, LILA, IF YOU WANTED TO!



"WE TWO-SOLED FOR MONTHS... DINNERS, DANCES, THEATRES! I EVEN LET HIM KISS ME... PRETENDED TO KISS HIM BACK! JIM WORSHIPPED ME!"

YOU KNOW, DARLING, WOMEN WILL BE WEARING SHORTER SKIRTS NEXT SEASON! WHY DON'T YOU STOCK UP... NOW?

GOSH, I'M NOT SURE, LILA...



"HE WASN'T HARD TO CONVINCE! TWO WEEKS LATER..."

THAT WAS VERY CLEVER OF YOU, DEAR!

I'VE TAKEN YOUR ADVICE, LILA! ALL THE TRACY SHOP FASHIONS WILL FEATURE SHORT HEM LINES!



"NOT LONG AFTER THAT, THE STOCKHOLDERS CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING! THEY HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO JIM TALBOT..."

YOUR STUPID, SHORT-SIGHTED BUYING HAS COST THE TRACY SHOP PLenty, TALBOT! NEEDLESS TO SAY... WE'RE BREAKING OUR CONTRACT WITH YOU!



"IT HAD TAKEN ME ALMOST FIVE YEARS... BUT I GOT WHAT I WANTED!"



"IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE THOUGHT OR FELT ABOUT ME! I'D MADE THE GRADE!"

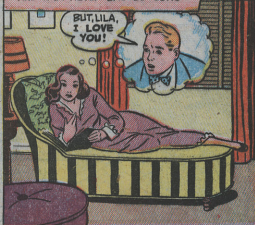
THEY TELL ME SHE TURNED JIM TALBOT INSIDE-OUT AND SENT HIM TO THE CLEANERS, THE---

AREN'T YOU LADIES WORKING TODAY?



"ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE, WHEN WORK WAS OVER, I'D HAVE A FEW REGRETS...VERY FEW...AND THEY NEVER LASTED LONG..."

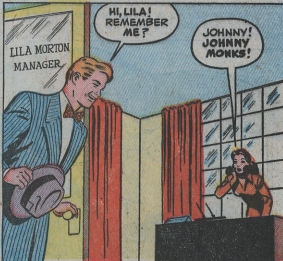
BUT, LILA, I LOVE YOU!



"THE LONG CLIMB TO SUCCESS WAS OVER! THAT'S HOW I FELT THE MORNING MY SECRETARY ANNOUNCED..."

MISS MORTON, THERE'S A REPORTER OUTSIDE! HE WANTS TO DO A SUCCESS STORY... ABOUT YOU!

ASK HIM TO COME IN, PLEASE!



HI, LILA! REMEMBER ME?

JOHNNY! JOHNNY MONKS!

"I LEARNED THAT JOHNNY HAD MADE THE BIG CLIMB, TOO! HIS INITIALS HAD BEEN SIGNED TO SOME OF THE GREATEST NEWS STORIES EVER PRINTED! AND I LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE..."



"I LEARNED HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE YOUR HEART BEGIN TO THAW AND MELT..."

LET'S DO OUR INTERVIEW AT DINNER TONIGHT, LILA! ALL THIS EFFICIENCY SCARES ME!

I...I'D LOVE TO, JOHNNY!



"HANDSOME AND GOOD AND WONDERFUL...THAT WAS JOHNNY MONKS! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...LOVE MEANT MORE THAN A CAREER!"

AND WHEN DID YOU BECOME STORE BUYER, LILA?

WHAT...WHAT DID YOU SAY, JOHNNY?

"I WAS AFRAID THAT ALL JOHNNY COULD THINK OF WAS THE INTERVIEW...THE NEWSPAPER STORY OF LILA MORTON!"

AND YOU SAY MR. TALBOT RESIGNED?

YES...SIGH...HE DID!

"BUT WHEN JOHNNY KISSED ME GOODNIGHT AND PROMISED TO SEE ME IN THE MORNING, MY FEARS VANISHED! THIS WAS THE KISS I'D BEEN WAITING FOR!"

217 PARK AVE

"THE NEXT MORNING, I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM..."

HASN'T MR. MONKS ARRIVED YET?

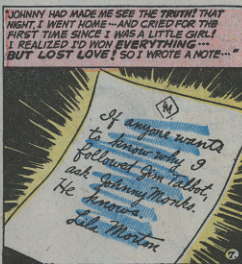
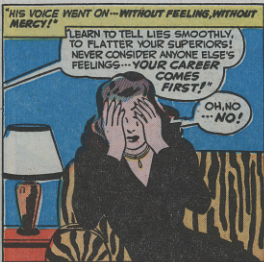
NO, MISS MORTON; HE...OH, THERE HE IS!

GOOD MORNING, LILA!

JOHNNY...I COULDN'T WAIT...I MEAN...OH, JOHNNY!

WAIT A MINUTE, LILA! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BETTER HEAR WHAT I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT YOU FIRST?

LILA MORTON



"I HAD NOTHING LEFT...MY AMBITION WAS DEAD...MY FIGHT WAS OVER! AND THE MAN I LOVED DIDN'T WANT ME...HATED ME!"



"FOR A MOMENT I STOOD THERE...GATHERING MY COURAGE!"

I...I'M SORRY, JOHNNY!
I GUESS I HAD EVERY-
THING...BUT LOVE!

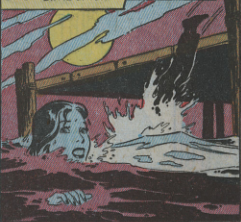
LILA,
STOP!
DON'T!



"AND THEN, AS THE WATER CLOSED OVER ME, I SAW MYSELF AS JOHNNY HAD SEEN ME...COLD, HARD, HATEFUL! AND I KNEW, WITH ALL MY HEART, THAT I LOVED JOHNNY MONKS...AND THAT IT WAS TOO LATE!"



"I DIDN'T KNOW WHOSE ARMS FOUND AND HELD ME...BROUGHT ME TO SAFETY AND LIFE...UNTIL LATER..."



I-I COULDN'T REST AFTER THOSE THINGS I SAID TO YOU! SO I WENT TO SEE YOU AND FOUND YOUR NOTE! AND I KNEW THEN THAT DEEP DOWN, YOU WEREN'T REALLY THE GIRL I'D WRITTEN ABOUT!

WHY...DIDN'T YOU LET ME GO, JOHNNY?



JOHNNY'S ANSWER WAS ALL I WANTED TO HEAR...ALL I EVER WANT TO HEAR!"

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, LILA! I ALWAYS HAVE...AND I ALWAYS WILL!

OH...JOHNNY...



NOW AT LAST YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE YOUR OWN GREETING CARDS
WITH YOUR **GIANT MAKE-A-CARD set!**



YES! THE WHOLE TOWN'S TALKING ABOUT BOB AND BETTY SINCE THEY GOT THEIR



WE GUARANTEE THAT WITHIN A FEW MINUTES AND FOR JUST A FEW PENNIES YOU CAN MAKE THE MOST DELIGHTFUL AND PROFESSIONAL LOOKING GREETING CARDS YOU EVER SAW—THE KIND THAT WOULD COST YOU MANY TIMES THE PRICE IN ANY RETAIL STORE. WHAT'S MORE YOU CAN GO INTO BUSINESS FOR YOURSELF BY MAKING AND SELLING THESE BEAUTIFUL CARDS TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. JUST THINK OF ALL THAT EXTRA SPENDING MONEY!



SEND FOR YOUR AMAZING OUTFIT TO FUN AND PROFIT! GET **ABSOLUTELY FREE** OUR INTRODUCTORY GIFT OF AMERICA'S FUNNIEST FELLOW—THE **MAKE-A-FACE CLOWN!**

THIS SENSATIONAL KIT OFFERED AT THE EXTREMELY LOW INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF ONLY \$1.00 CONTAINS ALL MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE CURRENT SEASON'S APPROPRIATE CARDS. INCLUDED ARE 8 CRAYON COLORS, METALLIC GOLD AND SILVER FOIL, STARDUST SHEEN, **MAKE-YOUR-OWN** ENVELOPES, 6 WATER COLOR BLOCKS AND BRUSH, AND OF COURSE, ALL THE CARDS YOU'LL NEED FOR MAKING A BIG ASSORTMENT.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT FREE OFFER OF AMERICA'S FUNNIEST CHARACTER. HE'LL LAUGH, CRY, SIGH OR LOOK ANY WAY YOU WANT HIM TO. WE KNOW YOU'LL LOVE HIM.

MAIL COUPON NOW!

ONLY \$1.00

MARTLYN MERCHANDISE COMPANY
1965 80th STREET
BROOKLYN, 14, N.Y. N.Y.

I am enclosing \$1.00 (check, cash, money order) as full payment for my MAKE-A-CARD outfit—TOGETHER WITH MY FREE MAKE-A-FACE-CLOWN. RUSH!

PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS (NOT AVAILABLE IN CANADA)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

GET STARTED ON THE ROAD TO FUN AND PROFIT!

CORNBEEF, CABBAGE...and LOVE!

MARY GREGG was fleeing—from love! It was Tom Halsey's love, and she didn't feel that she was worthy of it. It had been different when Tom was just a struggling young attorney—then her lack of education and polish weren't nearly so apparent. They had had good times together, then, and had laughed and loved with all of the zest of youth. How well Mary remembered the little restaurant where their courtship had progressed! She remembered the cornbeef and cabbage which was his constant favorite—how she had laughed over that never-failing order! But with that laughter came the tenderness of romance, and, soon, the heart-thrilling ecstasy of being promised to Tommy.

There was only delight when his fortune started to change—when the local political bigwigs decided that perhaps he had a future in public life. There was even talk of running him for Congress, and Mary had never been so proud as on that night when she accompanied him to a political club dinner at which he was to be guest of honor. But there her rapture soon turned to shameful grief. For these formally-attired men and women—they were creatures from another world! They were educated, intelligent, sure of themselves. Mary found herself faltering out answers to their polite questions—answers which she was sure displayed her ignorance and stupidity! She saw the veiled looks they threw each other, the puzzled stares that were cast towards Tommy on her behalf. And then her heart broke, because she knew that she wasn't for Tommy—that she would only hold him back, destroy his career!

Mary sobbed herself to sleep that night, but she had made up her mind. She was going out of Tommy's life, and he mustn't know where to find her. And so, leaving no address, she made her way to Granite Falls, a small city some fifty miles distant. He'd never dream of looking for her there, and she'd be safe. Safe! Yes—and heartbroken! For her days were blank and forlorn; her nights desolate stretches of loneliness. Tommy's face appeared in every dream, arms outstretched hungrily towards her. Time and again her heart cried out, "Find me, Tommy! Please find me!" But then cold common sense intervened. She was innq-

cent, unschooled—and he needed a wife who would help, not hinder him!

And so the lonely days passed. Mary had secured a job as cashier at the Railroad Station Restaurant. Her duties were monotonous, consisting only of making change and typing menus. On this particular day, however, something happened. One of the diners had left a newspaper—and there, in headlines, was the news that Thomas Halsey would arrive in Granite Falls that very day, to deliver a Congressional campaign speech! Suppose he came in here—and saw her? There was only one thing to do! She was going off duty in an hour—she'd pack immediately and leave for some distant spot where he could never find her! There was just time to finish typing the menus. Her fingers flew over the keys, then faltered as she came to the entry "Cornbeef and Cabbage a la Creole." *Cornbeef and cabbage*—oh Tommy, Tommy! How many times she remembered him ordering this, his favorite dish—the cute way he used to smile—!

Mary was packing in her shabby boarding-house room, the tears streaming down her face, when there was a rap at the door. And there was—Tommy! After all of the days and nights of heart-searing loneliness, Tommy! She tried to fight against his wonderful nearness, the miracle of his appearance, but it was no use. "You—you wonderful little fool," he choked. "It's you I want! Even if you haven't got a college degree, you're the only one who means a darn to me! I'll never let you go—and if you don't marry me pronto, I'll chuck this whole campaign business!"

Put that way, what was she to do? There were tears of happiness on Mary's face as she broke away from his kisses and embrace long enough to ask how he had ever managed to find her.

Tommy grinned—his crooked, lovable grin. "It was a cinch," he murmured. "When my train pulled into Granite Falls, I was hungry—so I dropped into the Station Restaurant. And when I looked at the men and came to '*Cornbeef and Cabbage a la I Love You, Tommy*'—well, I knew that only one girl could have typed what was on her mind that way! I got your address from the manager, and Mary—I love you too!"

HEARTBREAK FOR SALE!



"MY NAME---WELL, CALL ME ELLEN SLADE! I'VE LIVED HERE IN MIDDLETOWN ALL MY LIFE! I USED TO THINK WORKING IN A DEPARTMENT STORE WOULD BE FUN---THAT I MIGHT FIND EXCITEMENT---EVEN ROMANCE! INSTEAD, I FOUND DRUDGERY AND---HEARTBREAK FOR SALE!"

"WORKING AT MERRITT'S, MY DAYS WERE ALL ALIKE---RUSH, NERVE-WRACKING STRAIN!"

MISS, I'D LIKE TO EXCHANGE THIS SLIP!

MISS, I WAS HERE FIRST!

FOURTH FLOOR FOR EXCHANGES, MADAME---WHO'S NEXT, PLEASE?



"EVENINGS, USUALLY, THERE WAS MARK GAINES, WHO WORKED IN THE RADIO DEPARTMENT! I LIKED MARK..."

ELLEN, PLEASE SAY YES! MARRY ME!

MARK, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T---NOT ON THE WAGES MERRITT'S DEPARTMENT STORE PAYS---BE PRACTICAL! OF COURSE, I'M VERY FOND OF YOU---

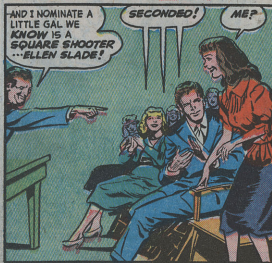


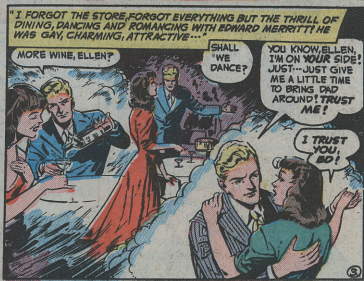
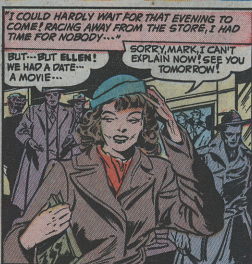
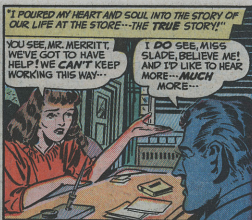
"YES, I WAS FOND OF MARK, BUT SOMEHOW, KISSING HIM WAS LIKE KISSING A GOOD, LOYAL FRIEND..."

BUT ELLEN, I LOVE YOU!

LET'S NOT DISCUSS IT NOW. TAKE ME HOME, PLEASE!







"TRUST ME, HE ASKED! AT THAT MOMENT, I WAS READY TO TRUST ED MERRITT... WITH MY HEART!"

FUNNY THING, ELLEN, I... I KEEP FORGETTING WE CAME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE STORE!

SO...SO DO I, ED!



I---I KEEP WANTING TO SEE YOU, AGAIN AND AGAIN! THE JUNIOR LEAGUE BALL IS NEXT SATURDAY--IS IT A DATE?

OH, ED, I'D LOVE IT... IT'S A DATE!



I DREAMED THAT NIGHT AWAY, AS I HAD DREAMED MANY OTHERS IN MY LIFE! BUT NOW MY DREAMS WERE DIFFERENT -- ROSS WITH ROMANCE! THE LONELY YEARS WERE FORGOTTEN! MY LIFE HAD BEGUN THE DAY--THE MOMENT--I HAD MET EDWARD MERRITT!



BZZ...BZZ...THAT'S ELLEN SLADE! IT'S ALL OVER THE STORE --THE YOUNG BOSS, ED MERRITT, IS CRAZY ABOUT HER!

THE WHOLE STORE'S BUZZING, ELLEN, ABOUT YOU AND ED MERRITT!



"And the next day..."

IF HE LIKES YOU THAT MUCH, WE'RE A CINCINCH TO WIN OUT!

THERE'S NO USE KIDDING, AMY, I... I LIKE HIM TOO!

SNIFF! SNIFF!



MISS OLIPHANT!

I HEAR TELL MR. MERRITT'S TAKING YOU TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE BALL, MISS SLADE!



HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO WEAR? HA-HA-HA! A PUMPKIN, PERHAPS, CINDERELLA?

SHE'S RIGHT! I'LL LOOK LIKE A RAG DOLL AT THAT SWANK AFFAIR! I'LL BE A LAUGHING-STOCK--AND ED --I'LL LOSE HIM!



"SUDDENLY...A DARING THOUGHT!"

NO ONE'S GOING TO QUESTION ME, OR EVEN NOTICE ME! I...I'M ONLY BORROWING THEM...I'LL RETURN THESE CLOTHES TOMORROW!



"IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR IN MY ROOM, DRESSING FOR THE BALL, ALL DOUBTS WERE SWEEP AWAY..."

I HAD TO DO IT...FOR ED!

...MAY I COME IN, PRINCESS?



YOU...YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! YOU'RE TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR THAT DANCE... TOO GOOD FOR ME...

DON'T! DON'T SAY THAT...!



"AT HIS WORDS, I FELT LIKE A FRAUD...A COMMON THIEF! I COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT--I COULDN'T DECEIVE ED!"

ELLEN... ELLEN...

I...I HAVE NO RIGHT TO THESE CLOTHES! THEY BELONG TO THE STORE! I TOOK THEM SO YOU'D...SOB...BE PROUD OF ME AT THE BALL!



DRY THOSE TEARS! YOU'VE GOT MY OKAY...THAT'S OFFICIAL! KEEP THE CLOTHES TILL OUR NEXT DATE! NOW LET'S GET GOING, BEAUTIFUL... THE NIGHT'S STILL YOUNG!



"THE DANCE WAS WONDERFUL! IN MY WILDEST DREAMS, I HAD NEVER IMAGINED SUCH RAPTURE...THE RAPTURE OF THE DANCING, THE MOONLIGHT AND MY LOVE FOR ED! AT LAST...REAL LOVE!"

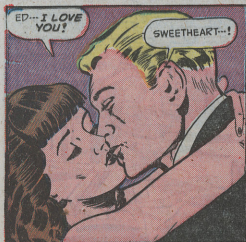
I'M DANCING WITH STARS IN MY EYES...

I'VE GOT STARS IN MY EYES, ED!

I NEVER THOUGHT... I DID... THAT DAY IN YOUR DAD'S OFFICE... ELLEN!

OH, ED... ED!





ED... I LOVE YOU!

SWEETHEART...

'IN A SINGLE, SOARING MOMENT, MY ENTIRE LIFE CHANGED! GONE WAS THE DRUDGERY, THE GREY DRABNESS, THE STRUGGLE-- THIS WAS THE STUFF MY DREAMS WERE MADE OF! IT WAS MAGIC! I WAS HIS... HE WAS MINE... NOW AND FOREVER!'



"IT WAS HARD, ON MONDAY, TO RETURN TO THE WORLD OF REALITY--THE STORE--AND MARK!"

IT'S ALL OVER THE STORE, ELLEN... YOU AND MERRITT ARE ENGAGED! TELL ME IT'S NOT TRUE!

IT IS TRUE!--I LIKED YOU, MARK... I STILL DO! BUT THIS IS--THE REAL THING!

SERVES ME RIGHT... "GOOD OLD MARK"! SUCKER! I... I WISH YOU LUCK, ELLEN!

MISS SLADE, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS... CUSTOMERS ARE WAITING!



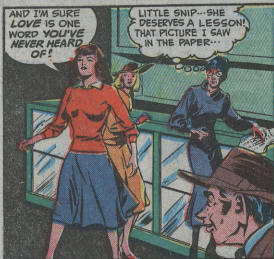
YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE SNARED THE BOSS'S SON, BUT MEANWHILE YOU'RE STILL WORKING HERE... UNDER ME!

MISS OLIPHANT, I HAVEN'T "SNARED" ANYONE! I HAPPEN TO BE IN LOVE WITH ED--MR. MERRITT--AND HE LOVES ME!



AND I'M SURE LOVE IS ONE WORD YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF!

LITTLE SNIP--SHE DESERVES A LESSON! THAT PICTURE I SAW IN THE PAPER...



YES, SHE DESERVES A LESSON... AND I THINK I SEE EXACTLY HOW SHE'S GOING TO GET ONE--FROM ME!



SECURE IN MY ROSY DREAM WORLD, I KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT WAS COOKING IN MISS OLIPHANT'S MIND, OR IN THE OFFICE OF HENRY MERRITT...

OUR EMPLOYEES' NEWS-PAPER...AND IT SAYS YOU'RE ENGAGED TO ELLEN SLADE! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO STRING THE GIRL ALONG, YOU FOOL...NOT MARRY HER!

I'M NOT GOING TO MARRY HER! THE LITTLE...SHOPGIRL IS TAKING A LOT FOR GRANTED--MAKING A FOOL OF HERSELF OVER ME!



EXCUSES! EXCUSES! YOU'VE GOT US INTO A JAM...NOW I'VE GOT TO GET US OUT!...WITHOUT JILTING MISS ELLEN SLADE AND STARTING A WALKOUT BEFORE WE'RE READY!

MISS OLIPHANT TO SEE YOU, SIR...SHE SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT!



THANKS FOR WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, MISS OLIPHANT! ED... GET A HOUSE DETECTIVE TO BRING THAT GIRL UP HERE... AND WE'LL NEED A WIRE RECORDER FROM THE RADIO DEPARTMENT!



THIS IS IT...JUST THE THING! MY EMPLOYEES WILL CONGRATULATE ME WHEN MY SON BREAKS HIS ENGAGEMENT TO A... SHOPLIFTER!



YOU CALLED FOR A WIRE RECORDER, SIR?

YES, LEAVE IT THERE... AND START IT UP BEFORE YOU GO!



DAD...ACTUALLY, ELLEN DIDN'T STEAL THAT DRESS! SHE BORROWED IT...I SAID IT WAS OKAY!

SURE, BUT WHO'S GOING TO KNOW THAT? THIS IS PERFECT! WHEN THE MISSING STUFF IS FOUND IN ELLEN'S HOUSE, YOU'LL BE CLEARED--AND SHE'LL BE COOKED!



THAT'LL FINISH MISS ELLEN SLADE! SHE'LL NEVER GET YOU...OR A RAISE FOR THE SALES FORCE!

WHAT WAS THAT? THEY'RE PLANNING SOMETHING... AGAINST ELLEN!



"WALKING ALONG THE CORRIDOR IN THE GRIP OF A STORE DETECTIVE, I WAS FRIGHTENED, HELPLESS, BEWILDERED..."

I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
IF I ONLY KNEW HOW!

PLEASE, CLANCY...



CLANCY, WE--WERE FRIENDS...WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHY AM I BEING TREATED LIKE THIS? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

LET GO OF HER, YOU...



LISTEN, YOU TWO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT...BUT I'VE GOT MY ORDERS! ANY COMPLAINTS...TAKE 'EM UP WITH MR. MERRITT...INSIDE!

MARK--
HELP ME!



I'LL DO ALL I CAN, ELLEN...I PROMISE!



WELL...HARRUMPH...COME IN, MISS SLADE! YOU TWO...STAY HERE! I WANT YOU TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY--AND SEE JUSTICE DONE!

YOU--ELLEN SLADE--LOOK AT THIS NEWS PICTURE! THAT DRESS--THOSE THINGS ARE MISSING FROM MY STORE! THE WIRE RECORDER IS READY TO TAKE DOWN YOUR CONFESSION...I CHARGE YOU WITH BEING A COMMON THIEF...A SHOPLIFTER!



"I FELT LIKE LAUGHING...WITH RELIEF! CONFIDENTLY, SMILING, I TURNED TO EDWARD...MY EDWARD!"

BUT--THIS IS ALL A MISTAKE! I--I BORROWED THOSE THINGS! ASK EDWARD...HE GAVE ME PERMISSION! EDWARD--TELL THEM, DARLING! PLEASE, TELL THEM!

TELL THEM WHAT, ELLEN? THE...ER...FACTS ARE PRETTY CLEAR!



"SLOWLY, I BECAME AWARE OF THE MEANING OF THE WORDS HENRY MERRITT WAS HURLING AT ME...THIEF...SHOPLIFTER! SLOWLY, I SAW EDWARD MERRITT IN A NEW LIGHT! I SAW MYSELF, TOO...AND I DIDN'T LIKE THE SIGHT! I FELT LIKE LAUGHING...AND CRYING! BUT I COULD SAY ONLY..."

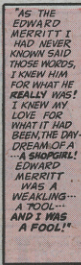
EDWARD...
EDWARD...!





ED, FOR MY SAKE... AND YOURS! FOR THE SAKE OF OUR LOVE... **TELL THEM!**

I HAVE **NOTHING** TO SAY, ELLEN! EVERYTHING BETWEEN US... **IS OFF!**



"AS THE EDWARD MERRITT I HAD NEVER KNOWN SAID THOSE WORDS, I KNEW HIM FOR WHAT HE **REALLY WAS!** I KNEW MY LOVE FOR WHAT IT HAD BEEN, THE DAY DREAM OF A... **A SHOPGIRL!** EDWARD MERRITT WAS A **WEAKLING... A TOOL... AND I WAS A FOOL!**"



AFTER ALL, YOU **DID** TAKE THAT DRESS, ELLEN!

AND YOU **"TOOK"** ME... **HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!** NOW YOU'RE GETTING **RID** OF ME...



...AFTER PLAYING ON MY AFFECTIONS TO STRING ME ALONG AND FORESTALL THE RAISE I WAS TRYING TO GET FOR THE SALES FORCE!

LIES... A PACK OF LIES!



WAIT A **MINUTE**, ELLEN... **EVERYBODY!** I KNOW THIS IS A FRAMEUP! I HEARD YOU PLANNING IT... I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO IT!

HAVE YOU, MR. GAINES, EVER HEARD OF A WORD CALLED **PROOF?**



I KNOW... IT'S **YOUR** WORD AGAINST **MINE**... I'VE GOT TO HAVE **PROOF!** THERE **MUST** BE SOME WAY... **HOLD EVERYTHING! THE RECORDER!**



JAIL'S THE PLACE FOR YOU!

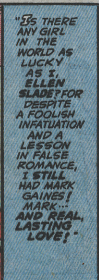
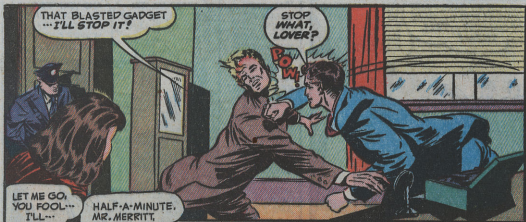
I... I **DESERVE** IT! BUT ONLY FOR FORGETTING MY DUTY TO THE WORKERS, AND PLAYING INTO **YOUR** HANDS!



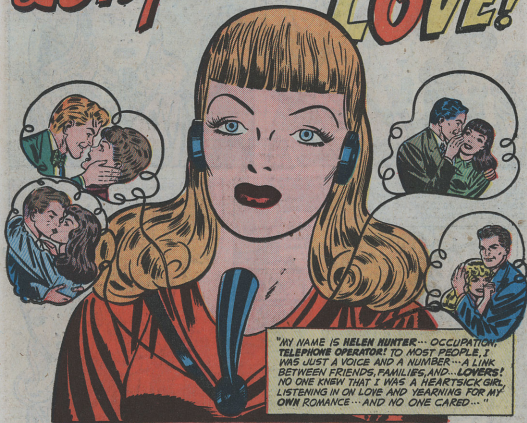
IT'S TAKEN DOWN EVERY WORD SPOKEN IN THIS OFFICE SINCE I LEFT IT HERE! **LISTEN!**

"DAD... ACTUALLY, ELLEN DIDN'T **STEAL** THAT DRESS! SHE **BORROWED** IT... I SAID IT WAS OKAY!"

"SURE, BUT WHO'S GOING TO KNOW **THAT?** THIS IS PERFECT!"



Long-distance LOVE!



"MY NAME IS HELEN HUNTER... OCCUPATION, TELEPHONE OPERATOR! TO MOST PEOPLE, I WAS JUST A VOICE AND A NUMBER... A LINK BETWEEN FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND... **LOVERS!** NO ONE KNEW THAT I WAS A HEARTSICK GIRL, LISTENING IN ON LOVE AND YEARNING FOR MY OWN ROMANCE... AND NO ONE CARED..."

"I CAME TO NEW YORK WITH A **DREAM** IN MY HEART! THE CITY OF LIFE, EXCITEMENT, ROMANCE... ALL WAITING FOR ME!"

SO MANY PLACES TO GO... PEOPLE TO MEET... I CAN HARDLY WAIT!



THIS ROOM'S TEN DOLLARS A WEEK, MISS, AN' I'M STRICT ABOUT GETTIN' PAID ON TIME!

DON'T WORRY, MRS. GRAVES... **I'VE GOT A JOB!** I LANDED ONE WITH THE 'PHONE COMPANY BEFORE I CAME!



"I COULD HARDLY HEAR THE LANDLADY! MY MIND RACED AHEAD TO THE LIFE IN STORE FOR ME! THIS WAS THE **BIG TOWN!**"

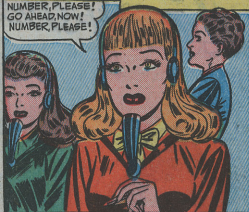
"AT FIRST, MY NEW JOB WAS A THRILL! IT WAS ALL SO NEW TO ME, THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH, THE VOICES COMING FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD..."



I WANT THE PARIS OPERATOR PLEASE... THAT'S RIGHT
...PARIS? GO AHEAD, NOW...

"BUT A MONTH WENT BY, AND ANOTHER MONTH... AND MY WORK TURNED INTO A DULL, MONOTONOUS ROUTINE! I BEGAN TO FEEL THAT I WAS LOSING MY OWN IDENTITY..."

NUMBER, PLEASE!
GO AHEAD, NOW!
NUMBER, PLEASE!



"AS FOR MY PRIVATE LIFE, MY DREAM OF NEW YORK AND ROMANCE, THAT WAS A LAUGH! I WAS AS ALONE AS IF I WERE ON A DESERT ISLAND..."



WHAT WOULDN'T I GIVE FOR A DATE... A REAL, LIVE MAN... SOMEONE TO TALK TO... GO OUT WITH! I HATE THIS ROOM, MY JOB, ME...

"SOON, I BEGAN TO PLAY A LITTLE GAME! IT WOULD MEAN MY JOB IF I WERE CAUGHT LISTENING, BUT I WAS DESPERATE FOR ROMANCE... EVEN SOMEONE ELSE'S!"



"LISTENING IN ON LOVE AND IMAGINING... THAT WAS MY LIFE! I WEPT AND LAUGHED WITH THESE LOVERS WHO DIDN'T KNOW I EXISTED! ALL THE TIME, I WONDERED..."

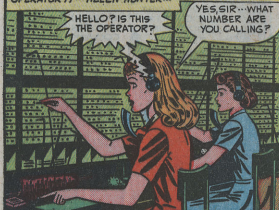


--WILL I EVER FIND
...A LOVE OF MY OWN?



I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW SOON MY QUESTION WOULD BE ANSWERED... AND HOW STRANGELY!"

"IT WAS AN EARLY SPRING DAY WHEN HIS CALL CAME! OF COURSE, I KNEW HIS VOICE WELL...FOR BARRY STUYVESANT HAD OFTEN PLACED CALLS THROUGH OPERATOR 17...HELEN HUNTER..."



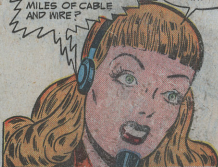
HELLO? IS THIS THE OPERATOR?

YES, SIR...WHAT NUMBER ARE YOU CALLING?

"HE WAS A WELL-KNOWN MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, WHO LIVED IN A WORLD FAR ABOVE MINE! THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS WHEN..."

TELL ME, OPERATOR 17, ARE YOU AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU SOUND? MUST WE BE SEPARATED BY MILES OF CABLE AND WIRE?

WHY...WHY, MR. STUYVESANT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT...



"ALL THE BEAUTY OF SPRING SEEMED TO WELL UP INSIDE ME AS HE TALKED! THIS WAS SOMETHING EVEN MISS CAULEY, OUR HATCHET-FACED, SNOOPY SUPERVISOR, COULDN'T STOP!"



I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE PHONE BUILDING WHEN YOU COME OFF DUTY... PLEASE SAY YOU'LL BE THERE, OPERATOR 17!

YES, SIR... THANK YOU, SIR... I'VE MADE THE CONNECTION!

"I COULDN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY TO END! MY HANDS TREMBLED AS I FIXED MY HAIR, PUT ON MY LIPSTICK... WAS I BEAUTIFUL? THE OTHER GIRLS SEEMED TO SENSE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ME..."



WHY, HELEN, YOU NEVER SAID YOU HAD A DATE TONIGHT... OR HAVE YOU?

DON'T BOTHER TALKING TO HER, MARIE! SHE'S ALL THE WAY UP IN THE CLOUDS TONIGHT!

"I KNEW THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS WRONG, MIGHT COST ME MY JOB... BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT! MAYBE I WOULDN'T BE LONELY NOW... MAYBE THIS WAS THE ROMANCE I YEARNED FOR!"



I DON'T CARE! I'M SICK OF LONELINESS... THAT DEPRESSING FURNISHED ROOM! BUT... SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T COME!

"MY FEARS WERE SOON SWEEP AWAY! BARRY STUYVESANT WAS ALL I HAD EVER IMAGINED... EVER WANTED! I REMEMBER HOW SILLY MY FIRST WORDS TO HIM WERE..."



HI, OPERATOR 17! WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY! HOP IN!

BUT... BUT I'M NOT DRESSED FOR A PARTY! AND MY NAME IS HELEN HUNTER!

"IN THE CAR, I KEPT WATCHING HIM...HIS EYES, HIS MOUTH...HIS STRONG-LOOKING HANDS ON THE WHEEL! I COULD BARELY HEAR HIS WORDS FOR THE SONG THAT KEPT SINGING INSIDE MY HEAD..."

YOU'RE IN LOVE...
IN LOVE...
YOU'RE IN LOVE...

MARCIA VANDERLIP'S GIVING THIS SHINDIG--YOU'LL HAVE FUN IF YOU LIKE UPPER-CRUST PEOPLE WHO ARE HALF-BAKED!



"I TREMBLED AS WE ENTERED THE VANDERLIP HOUSE...IT WAS FRIGHTENING AND WONDERFUL AT THE SAME TIME! AND ALL I COULD SAY TO BARRY WAS..."

DO...DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT? I'M AFRAID I DON'T EXACTLY...

NONSENSE, HELEN! YOU'RE JUST EXACTLY RIGHT! IN FACT, YOU COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT!



"MY MOMENT OF HAPPINESS WAS BRIEF! AS BARRY ESCORTED ME TOWARDS THE HOSTESS, THE WHOLE INSULTING, HUMILIATING SCHEME HIT ME...AND MY HEART SANK!"

CONGRASHULASHUNS, BARRY, OL' BOY! I SHEE YOU...YOU BROUGHT HER BACK ALIVE!

IS THAT A REAL, LIVE TELEPHONE OPERATOR?

BARRY... DARLING! YOU'RE SO CLEVER!



"FOR A MOMENT, I WAS SPEECHLESS AS THE TRUTH DAWNED UPON ME..."

WELL, DARLING, THIS IS A WONDERFUL SCAVENGER HUNT! JANE GOT THE WOODEN INDIAN, HUGH BROUGHT IN AN AUTHENTIC HOBBO, BUT YOU'VE DRAWN THE PRIZE! TELL ME, CAN SHE SAY ANYTHING BESIDES, "NUMBER, PLEASE" P

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, MARCIA, FUN'S FUN, BUT...



"A SCAVENGER PARTY--WITH ME AS ONE OF 'THE FUNNY THINGS' PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BRING BACK! I HATED THESE PEOPLE...THIS GIRL...BARRY..."

YES, MISS VANDERLIP, I CAN! I CAN SAY THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE COARSE, STUPID, UNFEELING PEOPLE! YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT...YOU ARE ALL FIT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN--THAN--SCAVENGERS!



"MY VOICE BROKE...AND AS TEARS STARTED TO STREAM DOWN MY FACE, I TURNED AND FLED FROM THESE HORRIBLE, JEERING PEOPLE!"

HELEN! WAIT! DON'T RUN OFF LIKE THAT... HELEN!

OH, DON'T BE SILLY, BARRY! COME AND JOIN THE PARTY... YOU'VE WON FIRST PRIZE, YOU KNOW!



"MY NIGHT WAS FILLED WITH NIGHTMARES, LAUGHING FACES, MOCKING VOICES! AND THE NEXT DAY, MY TEAR-FILLED EYES AND CHOKED THROAT WOULD NOT LET ME WORK..."

I...I'M SORRY I CUT YOU OFF... HERE'S YOUR PARTY!

PAY STRICT ATTENTION TO YOUR WORK, MISS HUNTER, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO REPORT YOU!



"AND THEN, TOWARDS THE END OF THE LONG, HATEFUL DAY, WHEN I COULD THINK OF NOTHING BUT THE SHELTER OF MY ROOM... HE CALLED!"

HELEN, PLEASE LISTEN! I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T THINK! WHY WON'T YOU LET ME TELL YOU...

I'M SORRY, SIR, YOU SEEM TO HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER!



"HE WOULDN'T LET ME ALONE, TO FORGET MY SHAME AND HUMILIATION! THAT NIGHT, AS I HURRIED FROM THE BUILDING WHERE I WORKED..."

BARRY!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND, HELEN! WON'T YOU LET ME TALK TO YOU, APOLOGIZE, PUT MYSELF RIGHT?



"HIS VOICE HAD THE SAME SINCERE SOUND AS WHEN HE HAD ASKED ME TO THAT... THAT PARTY! IT MADE ME ILL, ANGRY AT THE SAME TIME! I PULLED MYSELF FROM HIS GRASP AND..."

PLANNING ANOTHER SIDESHOW, MR. STUYVESANT? WELL, YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT!

YOU... LITTLE... DEVIL!



"AS I TURNED TO GO, BARRY'S FACE HARDENED... HIS WORDS WERE FILLED WITH BITTERNESS AND ANGER..."

ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD AND NURSE YOUR WOUNDED VANITY! DON'T LET ME TELL YOU HOW I FEEL... YOU MIGHT **RELENT!** IN YOUR WAY, YOU'RE AS **UNFEELING** AS THOSE YOU ACCUSE!

GOODBYE, BARRY!



"I WAS EXILED TO MY DARK, DRAB ROOM AGAIN... AND LONELINESS! BUT NOW, THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE FILLED ME, MADE ME WANT TO STRIKE BACK AT HIM! THE EVENING NEWSPAPER GAVE ME A FEELING OF EXHILARATION..."

GOOD! NOW IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HURT HIM... AS HE HURT ME!



"I DREAMED, SCHEMED AND PLOTTED REVENGE! IF ONLY I COULD HURT HIM... DEEPLY! I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW SOON MY CHANCE WOULD COME..."

YES, THIS IS
NEW YORK
OPERATOR
17!

THIS IS CHICAGO
OPERATOR 8, PLACING
A PERSON-TO-PERSON
CALL FROM MISS
CLAUDETTE PHILIPS
TO... MR. BARRY
STUYVESANT!

"EVERYONE KNEW WHO CLAUDETTE PHILIPS WAS... A GORGEOUS MUSICAL COMEDY STAR, WHOSE POPULARITY WITH MEN FILLED THE GOSSIP COLUMNS! A THOUSAND QUESTIONS WENT THROUGH MY MIND..."

HMMM... HER NEW PLAY'S
OPENING IN NEW
YORK TOMORROW
NIGHT... WHAT
DOES SHE
WANT WITH
BARRY?... WHY
CALL HIM
WHEN SHE'LL
BE IN
TOWN?

BARRY, DARLING, I HEAR YOU'RE
GOING TO MARRY MARCIA
VANDERLIP! MY BEST ANGEL...
AND BY THE WAY, REMEMBER
THOSE DELIGHTFUL LETTERS
YOU SENT ME, YEARS AGO?
MARCIA MIGHT LIKE TO
SEE THEM! OH DEAR,
WHAT I COULDN'T DO
WITH \$50,000!

I UNDERSTAND
YOU PERFECTLY,
CLAUDETTE!
VERY WELL...
HAVE THOSE
LETTERS IN YOUR
DRESSING ROOM
TOMORROW NIGHT!
I'LL BE THERE!

"I KNEW IT WAS BLACKMAIL! AND I ALSO KNEW
THAT THE STUYVESANT FORTUNE WAS SINKING...
SINKING LOW ENOUGH TO MAKE BARRY WANT TO
MARRY MARCIA, WHO WAS TRULY WEALTHY! I
THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL DAY..."

SO! HE'LL PAY OFF
CLAUDETTE, MARRY
MARCIA AND LIVE
WEALTHILY EVER
AFTER! NOT IF
I CAN STOP
HIM!

"THE NEXT NIGHT, I HASTENED TO THE
OPENING OF CLAUDETTE PHILIPS' PLAY!
...I MANAGED TO GET THERE JUST AS
THE FIRST ACT WAS OVER... AND I LIED
TO BE ALLOWED INSIDE..."

I'M CLAUDETTE
PHILIPS' SISTER
...IT'S ALL RIGHT
FOR ME TO GO
IN!

HER DRESS-
ING ROOM'S
THE FIRST
DOOR ON THE
RIGHT,
MISS!

"ONCE
INSIDE, I
HAD NO
TROUBLE!
I PLAYED
ON HER
VANITY,
TOLD HER
I WAS A
FAN... AN
ADMIRER
OF HERS!
BORED,
SHE LET
ME STAY
AS SHE
PREPARED
FOR THE
SECOND
ACT, AND
ALL THE
TIME..."

WHERE CAN THOSE LETTERS
BE... IN THAT JEWEL CASE,
MAYBE?

"I WAITED UNTIL SHE LEFT THE DRESSING ROOM TO GO ONSTAGE! AND THEN, IN ORDER TO MAKE CERTAIN I WOULD NOT BE DISTURBED..."

IS THIS MISS PHILIPS' MAID?
YOU'D BETTER GET ONSTAGE,
MISS PHILIPS HAS FAINTED!
HURRY!



"I TOOK THOSE LETTERS AND RAN! IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT PEOPLE STARED AND WONDERED... I WAS PAST CARING ABOUT THAT! ALL I COULD THINK WAS..."

WAIT UNTIL **MARCIA VANDERLIP**
SEES THESE LETTERS! THERE'LL
BE NO MARRIAGE OR
FORTUNE FOR **BARRY**
STUYVESANT!



"I WANTED HIM TO KNOW... TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WAS FAR FROM THE NOBODY THE VOICE AND THE NUMBER HE HAD TAKEN ME FOR!"

DO THESE LETTERS LOOK
FAMILIAR TO YOU, **BARRY**?
THEY **OUGHT** TO... YOU WERE
WILLING TO GIVE UP THE REST
OF YOUR FORTUNE FOR THEM!

WHAT ABOUT
THOSE LETTERS,
HELEN?



"MY TRICK WORKED! I FOUND THE DRESSING ROOM EMPTY... THE JEWEL BOX EASY TO PRY OPEN! EVERYTHING WAS WORKING TO MAKE MY REVENGE NEAT... AND SWEET!"

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT
OF HERE... THEY'LL BE
COMING BACK ANY
MINUTE TO SEE
WHO MADE THAT
CALL!



"CRUEL MEMORIES FLOODED OVER ME AS I ENTERED MARCIA'S HOUSE! ALL MY FEELINGS OF HATRED, MY DESIRES FOR REVENGE, FLARED UP! AND THEN, TO MY SHOCK, I SAW SOMEONE I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE AGAIN..."

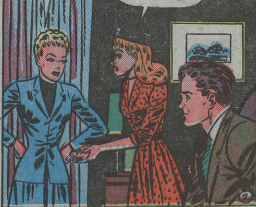
HELEN! WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE?

YOU... YOU MIGHT
AS WELL KNOW!



YES, WHAT
ABOUT THOSE
LETTERS?

THEY'RE A PRESENT,
MISS VANDERLIP,
FROM ME TO YOU
...HERE!



"AS MARCIA VANDERLIP EXTENDED HER HAND, SOMETHING INSIDE ME SNAPPED! I KNEW THAT I COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH MY PLAN!"



YOU CAN HAVE HIM! IN FACT, YOU'RE **WELCOME** TO HIM. ---HE'S THOUGHTLESS, RUTHLESS AND NOT WORTH ANY **REAL LOVE!** GOODBYE...



WHY, YOU COMMON LITTLE NOBODY! JUST WHO GAVE **YOU** THE RIGHT TO ENTER THIS HOUSE, MY LIFE, THE LIFE OF A MAN LIKE BARRY STUYVESANT? I'VE A GOOD MIND TO NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES...

MARCIA! STOP IT!



"I STARTED TO LEAVE... KNOWING THAT I HAD WRECKED ALL MY CHANCES FOR FUTURE HAPPINESS! IN THE BACKGROUND I COULD HEAR BARRY'S VOICE, BUT HIS WORDS WERE DIM..."

I SAID **STOP IT!** YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S COMMON, MARCIA! YOU'RE A NOBODY, WITH YOUR SHALLOWNESS, YOUR LACK OF SYMPATHY AND FEELING! I HATE TO BE UNGALLANT, MY DEAR, BUT **OUR WEDDING IS OFF!**



"I LEFT THE HOUSE AND MY DREAMS BEHIND ME! BUT AS I RAN DOWN THE STEPS, I FELT A TOUCH --- HIS TOUCH! FOR A MOMENT, I WAS FRIGHTENED..."

HELEN, I'VE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU!

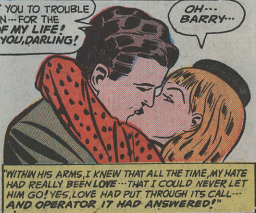
LET ME GO... I'LL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!

I WANT YOU TO TROUBLE ME, HELEN... FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! I LOVE YOU, DARLING!

OH... BARRY...



"AND THEN... THE WHOLE WORLD TURNED TOPSY-TURVY AND I KNEW THAT SPRING HAD REALLY COME... THE SPRINGTIME OF ROMANCE!"



WITHIN HIS ARMS, I KNEW THAT ALL THE TIME, MY HATE HAD REALLY BEEN LOVE... THAT I COULD NEVER LET HIM GO! YES, LOVE HAD PUT THROUGH ITS CALL... AND OPERATOR 17 HAD ANSWERED!"

That ALL-AMERICAN Kiss

GRACE MARTIN should have been the happiest girl at Elmwood University. For, besides being as pretty as they come, she had won the undying devotion of Pug Thornton, rugged and handsome captain of the Elmwood football team, a slashing full-back whose gridiron exploits and engaging grin woke jealous echoes in the heart of every coed on the campus. Yes, she should have been more than happy for the light in Pug's eyes when he greeted her, for the blissfully romantic moments they spent together in their favorite trysting place, the old sunken garden behind the Dean's house. But despite all of this, Grace was miserable!

Horace Brill was to blame for that. At first, Grace had hardly noticed him in her classes, and small wonder. He was undersized, sharp-nosed and wore thick, studious glasses. But he had a brain, and he wasn't slow in letting her know it. "College is a place for high intellect," he would say. "One comes here for study, and intelligence is what pays off! These football players—what are they but senseless hunks of muscle! And any girl who falls for one of them is a moron! Am I right?"

Almost against her will, Grace would find herself agreeing with him. Horace seemed to exercise a hypnotic effect on her—he was so logical! And after all, hadn't she come to college to develop her intellect? What if Pug Thornton was winning football games for Elmwood—what if he was handsome and devoted, it took time, but finally Horace had his way. She broke off with Pug; brought their wonderful romance to an abrupt end—and Horace took up where Pug left off!

It wasn't easy for Grace to do. Her heart cried out within her, but she was convinced that she was doing the right thing. And Pug took it hard. "Oh no, Grace!" he cried. "Not after everything we've meant to each other! You can't! I couldn't stand it!"

But the break had come. As Grace feared, Pug took it pretty badly. He became dull, listless without her. He broke training, and his playing on the gridiron suffered. And as time passed, Grace became more

and more worried. The big game with Center was coming up—would Pug be in shape to give it his best? She determined to ask Horace's advice. He was intelligent—he could help her! He didn't see her as she entered—he was too busy at the telephone. What was he saying? "Bet everything you've got on Center—and put a wad down for me, too! It's in the bag—Elmwood can't win!"

As Grace listened, shocked to the core, Horace proceeded airily. "I'm the lad who's at the bottom of it all! I got Pug Thornton's girl-friend to break off with him—and now the big lug is a wreck! Can't even sleep or eat, and by the time the Center game rolls around, he won't even be fit to be waterboy!"

Stricken, Grace turned and left silently, tears rolling down her cheeks. No use to confront Horace with his villainy—what was done was done. She had spurned true love and ruined a good man—for what? Suddenly a heartbreaking loneliness welled up in her. If only she could see Pug once again—but she couldn't. She'd do the next best thing, then—go to the old sunken garden where they'd spent so many happy hours together, and cry her heart out. And there, leaning morosely against a tree, was—Pug!

It was after they had run into each other's arms, mixing tears with laughs, that the whole story came out. "Sure I forgive you, honey," said Pug tenderly, "and don't worry so much about what you've done to me, see? All that counts is I've got you back! First thing I've got to do is call on Horace and see how well he matches his intellect against a stiff left jab! Then I'll spend the few days left getting in shape for the Center game, and—*we'll see!*" Then he was gone, leaving Grace with a singing heart in a world in which blue skies reigned supreme!

Horace never got to see the game—two black eyes interfered! But Pug ran wild, scoring the winning touchdown singlehanded and gaining All-American honors. And after the game Grace knew without doubt that this time, brawn had vanquished brains. An All-American kiss convinced her!

For Me Alone



WHY, YES, MR. FERRIS! I'D BE **HAPPY** TO STAY LATE AND HELP YOU!

SHE WAS AT IT AGAIN! AND HOW COULD I MAKE THE MAN I LOVED REALIZE I WAS ALIVE? TO HIM, I WAS ONLY AN OFFICE FIXTURE... TEN FINGERS POUNDING AT A TYPEWRITER! MARTHA ALLEN WAS SLOWLY BUT SURELY WINNING HIS AFFECTION... YES, PRETTY MARTHA, WHO LOOKED SO SHY -- BUT WAS AS CUNNING AS A FOX! WOULD HE EVER LOOK INTO MY EYES AND SAY, "I WANT YOU, VICKI -- **FOR ME ALONE!**"

THE-- THE SAME OLD METHOD-- **AND IT'S WORKING!**

IT WAS A TYPICAL DAY FOR ME IN THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT OF THE BAESTOWN MANUFACTURING COMPANY... TYPICAL, BECAUSE, AS USUAL, MY HANDS SEEMED TO BE ALL THUMBS... AND JONATHAN FERRIS, MY MANAGER, WAS GETTING READY TO TELL ME THAT AS A STENOGRAPHER, I WAS A GOOD SALESGIRL!"



ANEM... COULD I HAVE A **WORD** WITH YOU, VICKI?

Y-YES, MR. FERRIS... DID I DO SOMETHING **WRONG?**



"IF JONATHAN WERE RECITING LOVE SONNETS, THE EFFECT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME... JUST THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE SENT SHIVERS RUNNING UP AND DOWN MY SPINE!"

THAT LETTER YOU TYPED THIS MORNING -- UNFORTUNATELY, IT BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT I DICTATED TO YOU! IN ADDITION, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN MISTAKES IN SPELLING!

1--I'M **TERRIBLY** SORRY! I'LL DO IT OVER **RIGHT AWAY!**



"MY PRIDE KEPT ME FROM TELLING HIM THAT I HAD NEVER FINISHED MY SECRETARIAL COURSE! FATHER HAD FALLEN SICK AND WE NEEDED THE MONEY I EARNED DESPERATELY! IT WAS JUST MY LUCK THAT JONATHAN HATED INEFFICIENCY!"

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! I'VE ALREADY GIVEN THE LETTER TO MARTHA TO RE-TYPE! I DISLIKE HAVING TO SAY THIS, BUT YOUR TYPING WILL HAVE TO IMPROVE, OR... WELL...

I UNDERSTAND... OR YOU'LL HIRE ANOTHER GIRL!

"WORRYING ME EVEN MORE THAN MY WORK WAS MARTHA! OBVIOUSLY, SHE HAD DECIDED ON MARRIAGE AS A CAREER -- AND JONATHAN WAS GNAWING AT THE BAIT... HER EFFICIENCY!"

VERY NICELY DONE, MARTHA!

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH... JONATHAN!

"EVER SO OFTEN, AFTER SHE HAD SCORED A LITTLE TRIUMPH, MARTHA WOULD SCAMPER OVER AND GLOAT!

IN THE STRANGE WAY ONE WOMAN KNOWS HOW ANOTHER FEELS ABOUT A MAN, MARTHA KNEW I WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM!"

WASN'T THAT SWEET OF HIM, PRAISING MY WORK? ER--REALLY, DEAR, WOULDN'T IT BE WISER OF YOU TO FIND A JOB RUNNING AN ELEVATOR OR SOMETHING? I'M SURE YOU'D LOOK JUST LOVELY IN ONE OF THOSE UNIFORMS!

WHEN I DECIDE TO LEAVE, IT WILL BE BECAUSE SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU OFFERED THE ADVICE!

HMM... ELEVATOR GIRL UNIFORM... JONATHAN WOULD PROBABLY BE JUST AS STARTLED AS IF I WALKED INTO THE OFFICE WEARING A PARTY DRESS... A DRESS! THAT'S IT!

I BEG YOUR PARDON! WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT OLD DRESS, DEAR?

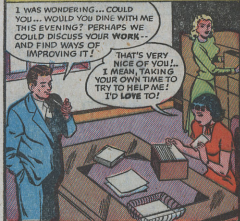
IT'S A SURPRISE, MOTHER--FOR SOME BIG OX WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE!

"THE NEXT DAY..."

WHY, VICKI! YOU'RE LOOKING EXCEPTIONALLY--ER--NICE TODAY!

YOU BIG GOOF-- IF YOU ONLY KNEW I SAT UP UNTIL THREE THIS MORNING FIXING THE DRESS. JUST SO I COULD HEAR YOU SAY THAT!

"JONATHAN COULDN'T KEEP HIS EYES OFF ME ALL DAY... AND WAS MARTHA BURNING UP! LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, HE CAME UP TO MY DESK..."

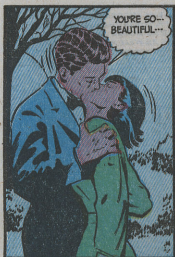


"AT LAST THE MOMENT I HAD HOPED FOR WAS HERE... I WAS IN HIS ARMS! I HOPED WITH ALL MY HEART THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING, THAT HE WOULD NEVER LET ME GO..."



"I WAS BEGINNING TO BE AFRAID OF HIM... OF MYSELF! THIS WASN'T THE MAN I KNEW AT THE OFFICE! A STRANGE FEAR TUGGED AT MY HEART..."





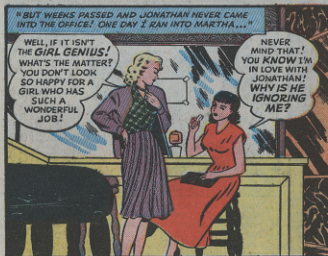
"I COULDN'T BLAME HIM... IT WAS REALLY MY FAULT, ENCOURAGING HIM AS I HAD... BUT I COULDN'T HELP THE BITTER TEARS OF REMORSE WHICH SPANG FROM MY EYES AS I RAN TOWARD THE HOUSE!"



"YES -- BECAUSE NOW I WOULD HAVE TIME TO STUDY AND BECOME THE EFFICIENT WORKER JONATHAN WANTED! THEN PERHAPS HE WOULD REALIZE I WAS MORE THAN A PRETTY DRESS... THAT I WAS A PERSON... WAITING FOR HIS TRUE LOVE!"

"DURING THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, JONATHAN NEVER MENTIONED WHAT HAD HAPPENED... NOR DID HE INVITE ME OUT AGAIN! WITH STUDY, MY WORK HAD IMPROVED! MARTHA'S GLOATING DAYS WERE OVER -- BUT ONE DAY..."





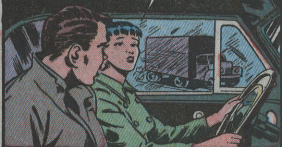
"AT LAST MY MOMENT HAD COME...WE WERE TOGETHER AGAIN! HE WAS SILENT, AND YET...DID I IMAGINE IT, OR WAS HE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING? TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH THE BARRIER BETWEEN US? DEEP INSIDE, I KNEW HE REALLY CARED, HAD LOVED ME FOR A LONG TIME... BUT HIS PRIDE WAS HOLDING HIM BACK!"



"I WONDERED WHAT MOTHER WOULD SAY IF SHE SAW ME NOW... PRETENDING I COULDN'T DRIVE WELL!"

"BETTER SLOW DOWN! THAT TRUCK IS MOVING ALONG PRETTY FAST!"

NOW, LET'S SEE... SHOULDN'T HE BE THE ONE TO SLOW DOWN... OR SHOULD I APPLY THE BRAKE?



QUICK-- GIVE ME THE WHEEL! DO YOU WANT TO GET US KILLED?

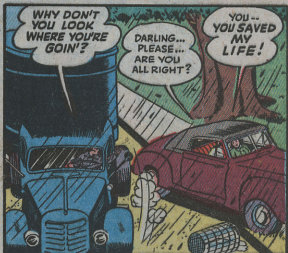
OH, JONATHAN... DO SOMETHING! I'M AFRAID!



WHY DON'T YOU LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'?

DARLING... PLEASE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOU... YOU SAVED MY LIFE!



"MY PLAN HAD WORKED! BY ACTING FOOLISH AND HELPLESS... I HAD SHOWN HIM THAT HE WAS SUPERIOR!"

THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE NOT HURT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I LOST YOU! IN THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU WERE IN DANGER...

... I REALIZED AT LAST IT'S BEEN YOU... ONLY YOU... ALL THE TIME!

DARLING... DARLING...



... BUT I KNOW I'VE BEEN A FOOL! FROM NOW ON, I WON'T CARE IF YOU'RE STUPID OR BRILLIANT... AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER!

AND YOU'RE ALL I WANT, TOO... FOREVER! FOR ME ALONE!



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